

prisoner for that offence. It was desired that that charge should be taken into consideration, if the prisoner was willing. From April 28th to May 6th, 1923, prisoner was nursing Miss Lindsay, 155, Elm Park Mansions, S.W., and during that period she missed a lady's gold ring, set with three sapphires and two diamonds. No trace had been found of that property. From June 24th, 1923, prisoner was engaged for one week nursing Mr. Hifford (since deceased), at The Rosery, Benhill Avenue, Sutton. Mrs. Hifford had missed two tray cloths, one pair of gloves, one d'oyley, and about 15s. in cash. The matter was not reported to the police, and the loser did not wish to prosecute.

AT REIGATE, REDHILL AND HORLEY.

On March 4th last, prisoner was employed in Redhill, and was nursing Mrs. Delaraba, Thornfields, Horley, for a period of ten weeks. During that period about £10 in notes and silver were missed, also four forks, two knives, four spoons, a silver ash tray, and a lady's lace scarf, value about £13. The property, except the money, witness recovered from a box in prisoner's room, and it had been identified by Mrs. Delaraba as her property. She did not, however, wish to prosecute, being aged, and in very poor health. From June 4th to 8th prisoner was nursing a Mr. Stevens, of North Street, Redhill, during which time about £6 in notes was missed. Then for about a week she nursed Mrs. Tapsell, 47, Grovehill Road, Redhill, and an old-fashioned tablecloth, a sideboard cloth, and a quantity of books were missed. Witness had since recovered the cloths and five books from the prisoner's box. They were valued at £2 ros., but the owner did not wish to prosecute. Witness also found amongst the prisoner's property a white silk petticoat, which had been identified by another nurse, who did not wish to prosecute. Since prisoner's committal a pair of sheets, a silver cream jug, two table knives, three spoons, and a fish knife and fork, the property of Mrs. Goodman, had been found in her (prisoner's) room. There had also been found amongst the prisoner's property a number of rings, jewellery, linen, lady's clothing, &c., but witness had not been able to trace to whom they belonged.

Replying to Mr. Douglas, witness said he believed that the prisoner came from Ireland to this country. Her mother and father were both believed to be dead, so that at a very early age the prisoner was left to her own resources. Since these proceedings it had been ascertained that a widow lady desired to do all she could for the prisoner. He believed it was a fact that the prisoner was engaged to be married in September, and that the young man to whom she was engaged was still perfectly willing to marry her.

In reply to Mr. Otter, P.S. Attwood said that it was not until prisoner had been pressed that she made the confession, which led to the property being recovered, except £2.

PLEA FOR CLEMENCY.

Mr. Douglas, in an earnest appeal for the prisoner, said she was well connected, but had had the misfortune of having to fight her own way in the world from a very young age. Both her parents having died, she had to seek her own employment, and was given a good character at St. Mary Abbot's Hospital, and the Belgrave Nursing Institution. At Redhill there was no complaint made against her as a nurse. It appeared that prisoner had got in difficulties through being in arrears with her rent, and gave way to temptation. He submitted that this was not the case of a person who had started on a career of crime, because all the cases had happened in the course of about a year, and with the exception of £2 the property had been recovered. It was the case of a young woman without any staple guidance falling into this way of stealing articles. There was not the slightest doubt that if the prisoner had been fortunate enough to find a friend she had been looking

for, the widow of a former member of the Bar, this would perhaps not have happened, but it was not until these proceedings came on that this lady was found. That lady was in attendance that day. The case had been such a shock to her that she was afraid she would break down if she came into Court, but she was willing to help the prisoner. In addition, the Court Missioner had expressed the view that she could give the prisoner some help and guidance up to the time she was about to be married. He pointed out that the prisoner had been in prison since the police court proceedings, and said that he had known worse cases in which the Court, in its clemency, had bound the prisoner over. It was a fact that the prisoner was about to be married, and it seemed to him it would be hard on the young man to marry a young woman who had actually been in gaol. If, therefore, the Court could extend its clemency and deal with the case under the First Offenders' Act, he was quite sure the prisoner would be greatly indebted to them. It would also give the young man an opportunity of raising the prisoner to the dignity of housewife.

Prisoner agreed that the case in respect of which the warrant was issued should be taken into consideration.

"A BAD CASE."

The Chairman (Sir Charles Walpole): We think this is a bad case. This woman has been practising this system of thieving for over a year. Commencing in December, 1922, it has been going on month after month. In different places where the prisoner has filled positions of trust, she has availed herself of these opportunities to steal property, and, it seems, valuable property, too. It is a case that cannot be dealt with as a first offender, and the sentence is that you be imprisoned for six months in the second division.

The name of Bertha Marguerite McBickford (No. 11874) appears in the 1924 Register of Nurses published by the General Nursing Council for England and Wales, and, as we are informed that this is the nurse above referred to, we presume the case will be dealt with at the meeting of the General Nursing Council for England and Wales on September 19th.

Let us remember that the State Register is not merely a list of names, but an instrument by means of which the efficiency and the honour of the Nursing Profession can be maintained. The duties of the General Nursing Councils, established under the Nursing Acts, is to safeguard the portal to the Nursing Profession, and if, unhappily from time to time it is found that a name appears on the Register of one who is proved unworthy, it is also their duty and responsibility to take steps, after due and careful enquiry, to purify the Register by the removal, if need be, of the name of the offender.

THE THIRD FATALITY.

Holding an inquest at Hammersmith on Mrs. Alice Louisa Prince, of Argyll Terrace, Kensington, whose body was found on the stone steps in the area of a nursing institution in Nevern Square, Earl's Court, the Coroner said that this was the third fatality which had occurred at the institution of late.

Evidence was that Mrs. Prince appeared quite normal when she was lying on a couch in her room on the second floor. The French windows opened inwards on to the balcony. Mrs. Prince apparently fell over the balcony railings in going out to get some fresh air.

The jury recorded an open verdict, and added a rider to the effect that greater precautions should be taken to prevent further fatalities.

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